available in the Library. The Books purchased 25 years ago have of course become old however new editions are added every year.

Hostels were got constructed as per the necessity and demand. Since the Pre-Ayurveda Test could not be held in the University for many years, rooms remain vacant. Now that regular admissions have started, rooms will not remain vacant.

There is Budget provision of Rs. 4.24 crores for the financial year 1997-98 for meeting both Plan and Non-Plan expenditure of the Institute. Though the Plan provision of Rs. 2.00 crores is quite adequate for Plan activities, additional funds may be required for Non-Plan expenditure if the teaching posts are filled up during the current year.

Purchase of equipment during the last 20 years amounted to Rs. 57.35 lakhs. Out of this Electric Bhatti Unit of Pharmacy worth Rs. 17.00 lakhs was erected through the State P.W.D. as Deposit Work.

On an average 8-10 operations are conducted every month with available equipment in the operation theatre. So it is not correct to say that the Operation Theatre is closed down.

The State P.W.D. carries out construction works in the Institute as Deposit Works. The Institute releases the amount demanded by the PWD and is not directly involved in any manner with construction. All the works like inviting of tenders, award of contract etc. are done by the State P.W.D.

The Director of the Institute is a member of many Governing Bodies/ Committees in Govt. of India, CCIM, UGC, various other Universities, Research Councils etc. Apart from all these, he is being frequently called to the Department of ISM & H, Govt. of India at New Delhi for various official matters. On an average, he has to leave the Headquarter for about 6-8 days a month. But this does not affect the day-to-day work of the Institute as the next senior person is available for attending to his duties.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee has identified certain problems plaguing the institute viz. admissions not being done regularly, examinations not being conducted in time, there being no national character to the Institute since students are admitted from Rajasthan and nearby areas only, the course of BAMS is stretched over to 7-8 years because of laxity on the part of the University in not conducting examination in time etc.

Concerted efforts are being made by the Govt. of India to sort out the problems faced by the Institute in a time bound manner.

Rationalisation of the prevention of food adulteration act

*334. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have been found to be harsh and unjustified by the hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hotel industry has demanded rationalisation of these provisions; and

(d) if so, what has been the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India has submitted a detailed note giving their recommendations/ observations on the Report of the Task Force on Food Laws under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice E. S. Venkataramaiah, ex-chief Justice of India.

(b) and (c) The Federation has, interalia, suggested the following for rationalising the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954:

(i) Penalties be graded according to the gravity of offence — The provisions specifying minimum punishment should be deleted.

(ii) Imported food articles should not be subjected to the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and certificate issued by the exporting country with regard to the nature and quality of food imported should be deemed to be sufficient compliance of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in India.

(iii) Provisions be made permitting appointment of more than one nominee by a company.

(iv) Prosecution of manufacturer/supplier alone in certain situations when vendor does not seem to be responsible for the offence.

(d) The Report of the Task Force has been examined by the Government in consultation with the Central Committee on Food Standards, a Statutory Committee set up under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and the representatives of Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry (CIFTI) and the process for initiating modifications has commenced.

Sub-critical nuclear tests conducted by USA

*335. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 190 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997, and state:

(a) what is the precise nature and number of sub-critical nuclear tests conducted so far by the USA; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) On July 2, 1997, the United States conducted one sub-critical nuclear test condenamed 'Rebound' at its test site in Nevada. The test has been called "sub-critical" because no critical mas is formed during the experiment which can lead to a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

(b) Government have taken note of the "sub-critical" underground nuclear test and expressed concern that this has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT". These developments confirm the validity of India's concerns expressed during the CTBT negotiations, as well as our eventual decision last year, that India could not be a party to such a treaty. India however continues to remain committed to achieving genuine nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner.

Medical collaboration between SRMC, Chennai and HMS, USA

*336 SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that Shri Ramachandra Medical College (SRMC), Chennai, has tied-up with the Harvard Medical School of USA, for collaborative efforts in the key areas of medical education, research, treatment and transfer of information, as reported in the Hindu, dated the 27th July, 1997;

(b) whether an agreement to this effect has since been signed between the representatives of the SRMC and the Harvard School; and

(c) if so, what are the broad features of the agreement?